

What is claimed:

1. A covering for a wheel of a vehicle where said wheel has a generally planar web surrounded by a tubular rim, said rim having an inner surface and said web having an outer surface and a central opening for receiving a central portion of an axle of said vehicle, said covering comprising

a body having a web portion,

said web portion having a rear surface complementary in shape to said outer surface of said web of said wheel, and

means for bonding said rear surface of said web portion to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

2. The cover of claim 1 wherein said means for bonding will nonremovably bond said rear surface of said web portion to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

3. The cover of claim 1 wherein said wheel has an outer lip for retaining the bead of a tire and said body has an outer end having a diameter a little less than said outer lip of said wheel wherein said cover will not interfere with the use of a tool used to remove said tire from said wheel.

4. The cover of claim 1 where said wheel has a plurality of holes spaced around said central opening for receiving a corresponding plurality of parallel spaced threaded studs for retaining said wheel to a vehicle and said web portion of said cover does not cover a portion of said web of said wheel in the proximity of said said plurality of said

holes wherein the metal of said wheel around said plurality of spaced holes can be inspected without removing said cover from said wheel.

5. The cover of claim 1 wherein said cover is made of metal.

6. The cover of claim 1 and said body further comprises a tubular portion having an outer diameter less than an inner diameter of said tubular rim wherein said tubular portion of said body will nest within said tubular rim when said rear surface of said web portion is bonded to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

7. The cover of claim 6 and further comprising means between said tubular portion of said body and said tubular rim for nonremovably retaining said tubular portion of said body within said tubular rim.

8. The cover of claim 6 wherein said web portion and said tubular portion are separate parts, and further comprising means on said web portion and on said tubular portion for retaining said tubular portion within said rim while said web portion of said cover is bonded to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

9. The method of covering the visible portions of a wheel of a vehicle where said wheel has a generally planar web surrounded by a tubular rim, said web having an outer surface and a central opening for receiving a central portion of an axle of said vehicle, said method comprising the steps of

providing a wheel liner where said wheel liner has a web portion having a central opening with a diameter at least as large as said central opening in said web of said wheel and having a rear surface complementary in shape to at least a portion of said outer surface of said web of said wheel, wherein said wheel liner will fit against said wheel with said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner abutting said outer surface of said web of said wheel,

providing means for bonding said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner to said outer surface of said web of said wheel, and

bonding said rear surface of said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said means for bonding will nonremovably bond said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said wheel has an outer lip for retaining the bead of a tire and said wheel liner has an outer end having a diameter a little less than said outer lip of said wheel wherein said cover will not interfere with the use of a tool used to remove a tire from said wheel.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein said rim has an inner surface, and said wheel liner is provided having a tubular portion having an outer diameter less than said inner diameter of said inner surface and comprising the further step of

nesting said tubular portion of said wheel liner within said inner surface of said rim.

13. The method of claim 12 and comprising the further step of nonremovably joining said tubular portion of said wheel liner to said inner surface of said rim.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said tubular portion of said wheel liner is provided as a separate part from said web portion of said wheel liner.

15. The method of covering the visible portions of a wheel of a vehicle where said wheel has a generally planar web surrounded by a tubular rim, said rim having an inner surface and said web having an outer surface and a central opening for receiving a central portion of an axle of said vehicle, said method comprising the steps of

providing a wheel liner where said wheel liner has a generally cylindrical portion having a circular inner end and a circular outer end and a planar web extending across said inner end of said cylindrical portion, said web having a central opening with a diameter at least as large as said central opening in said web of said wheel and having a rear surface complementary in shape to at least a portion of said outer surface of said web of said wheel,

providing means for bonding said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner to said outer surface of said web of said wheel, and

bonding said rear surface of said rear surface of said web of said wheel liner to said outer surface of said web of said wheel.